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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/028,073	12/26/2001	M. Weldon Rogers IV	51017-8583	4264
21888	7590	10/06/2006	EXAMINER	
THOMPSON COBURN, LLP			RUHL, DENNIS WILLIAM	
ONE US BANK PLAZA				
SUITE 3500			ART UNIT	
ST LOUIS, MO 63101			3629	
			MAIL DATE	
			10/06/2006	
			DELIVERY MODE	

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/028,073

Applicant(s)

ROGERS ET AL.

Examiner

Dennis Ruhl

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ 5/25/06; 4/9/04

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____

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1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1-6,10-24,26,30, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Klein et al. (5726885).

For claims 1,2,10,11,14-24,26,30, Klein discloses a computer system/network that is used to process rental vehicle transactions. Klein discloses a central server (computer at disposition center Z). The client processors (2nd computer system) are either HA or the computer that the customer uses at home to contact the server Z. See column 4, lines 13-45. The central server communicates with the client systems (some at branch offices and some at the home of the customer). The server inherently has stored software that is used to process the rental transactions. With respect to the language of “proprietary”, this is just descriptive in nature and does not recite anything further to the recited software. Software is software and whether or not it is proprietary has not relation to the structure of the software itself. The software is inherently configured to be GUI based. There must be a graphical user interface so that the user can interact with the system to conduct a transaction.

For claims 3,12, Klein discloses that users must be identified by the system for the rental transaction to be able to occur.

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For claims 4,5,13, the display is customized in the sense that the display is showing information relating to a specific location and the vehicles available at that location.

For claim 6, a WAN is a network. A network is a network and the network of Klein satisfies what is claimed.

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

5. Claims 7-9,25,27-29, are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klein et al . (5726885).

For claims 7,25,27-29, not disclosed is the use of a 2nd sever and a load balancer. The use of more than one server and a load balancer is old and well known

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in the art. Using more than one server with a load balancer allows for faster processing of data as opposed to the use of one server. The examiner takes official notice that it is old and well known in the art to use more than one server and to use a load balancer to ensure that data processing occurs at an acceptable rate and during times of high usage of the server, the work can be balanced for quicker processing times. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a 2nd server and a load balancer to ensure that data processing occurs at an acceptable rate and during times of high usage of the server, the work can be balanced for quicker processing times.

For claim 8, a LAN is a network. A network is a network and the network of Klein satisfies what is claimed.

For claim 9, not disclosed is that the software is configured to provide a back up of the data. The backing up of data is old and well known in the art. The examiner takes official notice of this fact. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Klein with a backup software routine, so that the data can be backed up in the event that original data is lost due to hardware failure or for some other reason.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dennis Ruhl whose telephone number is 571-272-6808. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Weiss can be reached on 571-272-6812. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



DENNIS RUHL
PRIMARY EXAMINER